

**REMARKS**

This communication responds to the Final Office Action of October 27, 2008, in which the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As shown above, claim 4 has been amended, and claim 27 has been added. No new subject matter has been added.

In view of the accompanying amendments and for at least the reasons articulated below, reconsideration is requested.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 2 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent 4,976,701 (Ejlersen et al.).

The rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite “a cannula support having a cannula detachably affixed thereto, said cannula support comprising . . .” instead of “a cannula support comprising . . .” The specification contains support for the amendment.

Amended claim 4 is directed to a cannula system including a cannula support having a cannula detachably affixed thereto, said cannula support including a thread turning in a first direction and another thread turning in a second, generally opposite direction, the cannula support having an outer side and an inside, said threads arranged at least on the outer side of the cannula support, and a protective cap for covering a point of a needle having a thread engageable with said thread turning in said second generally opposite direction.

Ejlersen et al. discloses an injection device with a double-ended needle in a needle holder. There are first cooperative threads on a cap and the jacket for screwing and unscrewing the cap onto the jacket. There are also second cooperative threads on the needle holder and one of the cap and cartridge. (Ejlersen et al., Abstract.)

The Examiner asserts that Ejlersen et al. discloses a cannula support consisting of “the plastic sleeve (14) and the sleeve-shaped member (composed of rear part 23 and front part 24) . . . as these two components are used to hold a cannula (27) and attach it to an injection apparatus.” Amended claim 4, however, requires that the cannula support have a cannula detachably affixed to it. The plastic sleeve and sleeve-shaped member of Ejlersen et al. do not permit a cannula to be directly affixed to them. Instead, Ejlersen et al. discloses a double-ended needle 27 that is passed through a needle holder 28. (Ejlersen et al., col. 2, lines 30-32.) Figures 1 and 2 of Ejlersen et al. clearly show that the needle holder 28 directly holds the needle 27, which does not make contact with either the plastic sleeve 14 or the sleeve-shaped member 23, 24. Because neither the plastic sleeve 14, nor the sleeve-shaped member 23, 24 directly hold a needle or cannula, neither can be equated with the cannula support of amended claim 4.

The only portion of Ejlersen et al. that directly holds a needle is a needle holder. The needle holder of Ejlersen et al., however, does not have a thread turning in a first direction and another thread turning in a second, generally opposite direction. As such, Ejlersen et al. does not disclose or teach the invention of amended claim 4, at least because it does not disclose a cannula support.

Claims 2 and 5-8 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 4 and are patentable over Ejlersen et al. for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to amended claim 4.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

**Conclusion**

This paper is being submitted on or before March 27, 2009, and an extension of time until that date is requested. The required fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1420. No additional fees should be due in connection with this paper, but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension fees or other relief which may be required, or credit any overpayment and notify us of same, to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

The application now stands in allowable form, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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